

IV.—*Descriptions of two new Species of Ophiocoma.* By EDGAR A. SMITH, F.Z.S., Senior Assistant in the Zoological Department, British Museum.

THESE two interesting forms of Ophiuridæ were collected by Mr. George Gulliver at the island of Rodriguez, together with *Ophiocoma erinaceus*, Müller and Troschel, and *Ophiomastix venosa*, Peters.

*Ophiocoma variegata*, n. sp.

Disk circular, finely granulated above and beneath; oral shields rather longer than broad, faintly octangular, sides rectilinear; adoral shields narrow, extending along the lateral margins of the oral shields; mouth-papillæ three on each side of each oral angle, the outermost being the largest and squarish; and above the teeth at the apex of the angle is an irregular cluster of about twelve smaller papillæ; teeth four, strong, with curved ends. Arms about four times as long as the diameter of the disk, rather stout; upper plates transversely narrowly oval, with the outer margin faintly angulated in the middle, about twice as broad as long; lower plates squarish, the aboral angles rounded, the side margins excavated; arm-spines four, subequal, the uppermost a trifle the shortest and stout, and the lowest but one a little the longest, about as long as the width of the dorsal arm-plates (the tenth); ambulacral scales two in number to the extremity of the arms, short and compressed.

Colour (of specimen in alcohol):—disk above and beneath uniformly purplish brown; upper arm-plates dirty brown, at intervals varied with three or four contiguous pale ones, which are marked with the dark outline of a subquadrate figure, particularly observable towards the ends of the arms; lower arm-plates pale, blotched, particularly towards the extremity of the rays, with dirty brown; arm-spines of a uniform tint, but paler than the upper arm-plates; oral shields pale, mottled with dirty brown.

Diameter of disk 28 millims., length of arm 105, diameter of widest dorsal arm-plates 4.

The nearest ally of this species is *O. scolopendrina*, Lamarck, which differs from it in coloration, the form of the arm-shield, oral shields, and the brachial spines. The dark outline which encloses a somewhat quadrate light-coloured space, on the pale superior arm-plates, is very characteristic, as also is the dirty-brownish mottling on the oral shields and lower arm-plates.

*Ophiocoma brevispinosa*, n. sp.

Disk subcircular, flat above, minutely granulated above and below; oral shields heart-shaped, broader than long; adorals small, crescentiform, bordering the sides of the orals; mouth-papillæ three or four on each side of an oral angle, and a group of about twelve at the apex; teeth four, the two intermediate ones larger than the two exterior. Arms a little more than three times as long as the diameter of the disk; upper plates transversely oval, about twice as broad as long; lower plates (twelfth from the base) a trifle longer than broad; aboral margin arched and a little pointed in the middle, lateral edges rather deeply excavated; oral margins a little convergingly sloping and interrupted by the outer margin of the previous plate; tentacle-scales two, short and compressed: brachial spines short, four (sometimes five on a few plates just beyond the contour of the disk), the two upper ones shorter than the others, broad and flattened; the two inferior ones (of which the second or upper one is a trifle the larger) are slightly conical, and not so long as the width of the broadest dorsal arm-plates.

Colour (of specimen in alcohol):—disk dirty white, mottled irregularly with green above and beneath; arms of the same colour as the disk, with a narrow green line, more or less distinct, down the centre; lower plates, ambulacral scales (and two lower series of spines for the most part) uniformly dirty white, and the two upper series of spines with one or two greenish rings and dots; oral shields spotted with green.

Diameter of disk 17 millims., length of arm about 54.

V.—*The Mammals of Turkestan.* By Dr. N. SEVERTZOFF.

[THE results of Dr. Severtzoff's investigations into the vertebrate fauna of Turkestan appeared in 1873 (Proceedings of the Moscow Society of Naturalists, vol. viii. p. 2); but having been written in Russian, they have remained practically unknown to most western zoologists. Mr. H. E. Dresser has recently published an abstract of the ornithological portion, with critical notes and additional information communicated by the author, who visited England last summer ('Ibis,' 1875, pp. 96, 236, &c., 1876, pp. 77 &c.). In the following pages I have translated Dr. Severtzoff's observations on the Mammals, and have added the substance of a few MS. notes of the author from Mr. Dresser's copy of the work. I have to acknowledge